Awareness of welfare schemes

2890. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner the Ministry is using electronic and print media to generate awareness among the persons belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs and disabled, particularly who are residing in remote, far-flung and hilly areas, about the various schemes and programmes of this Ministry;

(b) whether the Ministry has prepared any statistics of such people from Andhra Pradesh, so as to effectively implement the schemes and programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount spent on such people during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Ministry is utilizing the services of Department of Audio Visual Publicity of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for awareness generation and publicity through various forms of mass media like print, electronic and outdoor for wider dissemination of information on various schemes/programmes of the Ministry among the persons belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs and disabled.

(b) to (d) No Sir.

National Policy on Older Persons

2891. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Policy on Older Persons;

(b) what legal safeguards under the above Policy have been provided to older persons in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what special schemes the Ministry has under the NPOP, for providing financial security to older people in the country, with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) envisages to encourage families to take care of their older family members, to provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people, to provide health care facility to the elderly, to promote research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and organizers of services for the elderly, etc.

(b) The Director General of Police, Hyderabad issued instructions to the Commissioners of Police and Superintendents of Police to constitute advisory

committees. Free legal aid is also provided to the older persons. Helpline for older persons has been established.

(c) Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, the Central Government grants additional central assistance to the State Governments at the rate of Rs. 200 per person per month for payment of old age pension to destitute older persons. Government also provides 10 Kilograms of rice free of cost to the senior citizens living below poverty line. Both these schemes are also being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Representations received by the Ministry

2892. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from All India Association for SC/STs Physically Handicapped by Prime Minister Office between 30th December, 2006 to till date through Fax/by post regarding joining in main stream of Government aided projects by SC/ST Association;

(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when action would be taken thereon;

(d) whether any directions/instructions are issued to all concerned Ministries/Departments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) No representation has been received by the Prime Minister Office from All India Association for SC/STs and Physically Handicapped. Only a reminder dated 8.6.2007 was received by them which does not contain details of relief sought. Hence, no action has been feasible.

Representations regarding appointment

2893. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of letters received between 19th December, 2006 and till date from VIPs and All India Associations for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped by the Ministry and National Commission for Scheduled Caste/Tribe in respect of appointments made for more than 45 days;

(b) whether any action has been taken thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and